

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00
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INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9680
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 00608

FOR EMBASSY CAPE TOWN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, SF, WA
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: NEXT STEPS

1. CONTACT GROUP MET AM FEBRUARY 21 TO DISCUSS NEXT STEPS
ON NAMIBIA AND AGREED AD REFERENDUM ON THE FOLLOWING:

- A) CONTACT GROUP'S MOST IMMEDIATE TASK IS TO DRAFT
IMPROVED PROPOSAL TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE CLARIFYING LAN-
GUAGE AND THE REACTIONS OF SWAPO AND SOUTH AFRICA TO THAT
LANGUAGE. GROUP WILL BEGIN DRAFTING AM FEBRUARY 22 AND
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WOULD HOPE THAT IMPROVED PROPOSAL COULD BE COMPLETED
(INCLUDING APPROVAL OF CAPITALS) BY THE END OF THE WEEK.
GROUP BELIEVES THAT IMPROVED PROPOSAL SHOULD REPRESENT
FIVE'S FINAL BLUEPRINT FOR A REASONABLE SETTLEMENT.
GROUP THEN BEGAN INITIAL CONSIDERATION OF WHAT ACTION
SHOULD BE TAKEN WITH THE FINAL PROPOSAL TO MOVE OUR
EFFORTS ANOTHER STEP FORWARD.

- B) IN LIGHT OF THE UNHELPFUL AND UNYIELDING REACTIONS OF SOUTH AFRICA AND SWAPO TO THE CLARIFYING LANGUAGE, AND THE QUESTIONS THEREBY RAISED AS TO THE SINCERITY OF THE PARTIES' INVOLVEMENT IN THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS, THE GROUP AGREED THAT ANOTHER ROUND OF TALKS WOULD SERVE NO USEFUL PURPOSE.
- C) GIVEN THE FACT THAT THE TEXT OF THE PROPOSAL HAS NOW BEEN CARRIED IN THE PRESS (SEPTTEL), OFFICIAL PUBLICATION BY THE FIVE WOULD SEEM TO OFFER NO PRESENT ADVANTAGE. IN ADDITION, PUBLICATION ALONE WOULD APPEAR TO BE EVIDENCE OF THROWING IN THE TOWEL.
- D) THE POSSIBILITY OF TAKING THE ISSUE TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL SHOULD BE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED. THE OBJECT OF SUCH AN ACTION WOULD BE TWO-FOLD: EITHER (1) TO JOLT ONE OR BOTH PARTIES INTO ACCEPTING THE PROPOSAL; OR (2) TO GENERATE BROAD ENOUGH SUPPORT FOR THE PROPOSAL THAT BOTH SWAPO AND SOUTH AFRICA, DESPITE STRONG RESERVATIONS, WOULD BE UNWILLING TO REJECT IT. IN PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS ONLY CANADIANS SEEM TO HAVE RESERVATIONS ABOUT GOING AHEAD WITH A SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING IN THE ABSENCE OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE PARTIES. THIS LATTER ALTERNATIVE WOULD REQUIRE EXTENSIVE ADVANCE LOBBYING AND THE ACTIVE ASSISTANCE OF THE FRONTLINE STATES, WHOM WE KNOW TO BE FRUSTRATED WITH SWAPO'S CONTINUED INTRANSIGENCE ON A NUMBER OF THE OUTSTANDING

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ING ISSUES. THEIR ASSISTANCE WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN BUT PERHAPS NOT IMPOSSIBLE.

- E) THE IMPROVED PROPOSAL WILL HAVE TO BE PRESENTED TO SWAPO AND SOUTH AFRICA IN THE NEAR FUTURE, SINCE BOTH ARE AWAITING OUR VIEWS. THE TIMING OF THAT PRESENTATION WILL HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE CONTEXT OF OUR OVERALL PLANS. ALL QUESTIONS OF TIMING ARE, OF COURSE, INFLUENCED BY THE LIKELIHOOD THAT SOUTH AFRICA MAY SOON GO AHEAD WITH AN ELECTION DATE ANNOUNCEMENT UNLESS SOME ACTIVITY ON OUR PART FORESTALLS IT, OR UNLESS BOTHA'S VISIT TO WINDHOEK PRODUCES AN EXCUSE FOR SOUTH AFRICA ITSELF TO ADVOCATE DELAY.
- F) CONTACT GROUP ALSO DISCUSSED THE LIKELIHOOD THAT SOUTH AFRICA IS NOW PREPARING FOR A FULL-SCALE PUBLIC DEFENSE OF THE REASONABLENESS OF THEIR POSITION IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. GROUP MUST, THEREFORE, CONSIDER THE NEED TO MAKE OUR OWN ACTIVITIES, INTENTIONS, AND POSITIONS PUBLIC. IN THIS REGARD, CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO PREPARING THE PUBLIC PRIOR TO ANY SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION. YOUNG

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